



Staff Report

Agenda Item: **Authorization for the Mayor to Sign a Letter Of Support for Qwest Communication's Broadband Submittal For ARRA Stimulus Funds** – Letter of Support for Qwest Communication for their submittal of a Broadband stimulus fund application for the underserved and unserved areas of the Verde Valley.

Staff Contact: Sherry Bailey, Community Development Director

Meeting Date: June 8, 2010

Background:

Qwest Communication is submitting a Broadband stimulus fund application for the underserved and unserved areas of the Verde Valley. They have asked for a letter of support from all the communities that are part of the Verde Valley Broadband Cooperative. Clarkdale will benefit from Qwest receiving funding since much of Clarkdale is in the underserved area identified by Qwest. Also, if they are funded they will have to expand their infrastructure capabilities in the Verde Valley by both speed and size and we will all benefit. The request is for authorization to have the Mayor sign the Letter of Support for Qwest's application.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Council approve authorization for the Mayor to sign the Letter of Support for Qwest's Broadband stimulus application.



Town of Clarkdale

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Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

May 25, 2010

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

The Town of Clarkdale is a rural community in central Arizona's Verde Valley. For more than two years, Clarkdale has been working in concert with the other communities of the Verde Valley to bring broadband service to all residents and businesses located here. This effort is an essential element of our regional economic development plan.

You are currently considering a Qwest Communications application for the second round of ARRA funding aimed at rural America. We urge you to provide funding for this vital effort. Broadband access is essential in the creation of new economic development.

I appreciate your attention to this application and I encourage you and your staff to contact me with any questions you may have regarding our support.

Sincerely,

Doug Von Gausig
Mayor

Cc: Jeff Mirasola
Qwest, Staff Director for Public Policy
20 E. Thomas, 1st Fl.
Phoenix, AZ 85012